CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   An article of manufacture, comprising:

a computer with memory including stored therein a first list of employees each having a criteria of training data associated therewith, a second list of work area functions each having a criteria of training data associated therewith, a third list of notifications each corresponding to a unique combination of the employees and the work area functions based on the training data associated therewith, and a fourth list of time shifts of each of the employees wherein each time shift has one of the work area functions associated therewith; and

a computer usable medium having a computer-readable program code medium embodied therein for controlling the transfer of a shift change in a place of employment, the computer-readable program code medium in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to verify an identity of a management user,

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to allow the editing of the first, second, third and fourth lists only after the verification of the identity of the management user,

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to allow the browsing and printing of the fourth list,

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to verify an identity of an owner of a shift,

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to verify an identity of a recipient of a shift,

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to automatically edit the fourth list by transferring a shift of the owner to the recipient only if the training data of the recipient matches that of the work area function associated with the shift of the owner, and

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to display one of the notifications from the third list which corresponds to the combination of the training data of the recipient and the training data of the transferred work area function.

2. An article of manufacture:

a computer with memory including stored therein a first list of employees each having a criteria of eligibility data associated therewith and a second list of work area functions each having a criteria of eligibility data associated therewith;

a computer usable code having a computer readable program code medium embodied therein for controlling the transfer of a

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shift change in a place of employment, the computer readable program code medium in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to ascertain an identity of an owner of a shift,

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to ascertain an identity of a recipient of a shift, and

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to approve the transferring of a shift of the owner to the recipient only if the eligibility data of the recipient matches that of the work area function associated with the shift of the owner.

3.   An article of manufacture as set forth in claim 2 wherein the memory of the computer further includes an additional list of time shifts of each of the employees wherein each time shift has one of the work area functions associated therewith and computer-readable program code for causing the computer to allow the browsing and printing of the additional list.

4.   An article of manufacture as set forth in claim 2 wherein the memory of the computer further includes an additional list of notifications each corresponding to a unique combination of the employees and the work area functions based on the eligibility data associated therewith and further included is computer-readable program code for causing the computer to display one of the notifications from the third list which corresponds to the combination of the eligibility data of the recipient and the eligibility data of the transferred work area function.

5.   An article of manufacture as set forth in claim 2 and further including computer-readable program code for causing the computer to verify an identity of a management user and computer-readable program code for causing the computer to allow the editing of the lists only after the verification of the identity of the management user.

6.   A computer-implemented method for processing signals related to a first list of employees each having a criteria of eligibility data associated therewith and a second list of work area functions each having a criteria of eligibility data associated therewith, the method comprising:

ascertaining an identity of an owner of a shift,

ascertaining an identity of a recipient of a shift, and

approving the transferring of a shift of the owner to the recipient only if the eligibility data of the recipient matches that of the work area function associated with the shift of the owner.

7.   A computer-implemented method as set forth in claim 6 and further including the step of allowing the editing of the lists only after the verification of the identity of the management user.

8.   An article of manufacture:

a computer with memory having stored therein a list of employees;

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a computer usable code having a computer readable program code medium embodied therein for controlling the transfer of a shift change in a place of employment, the computer readable program code medium in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to ascertain an identity of an owner of a shift,

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to ascertain an identity of a recipient of a shift, and

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to approve the transferring of a shift of the owner to the recipient only upon certain criteria being met.

9. An article of manufacture as set forth in claim 8 wherein the criteria is a length of time before a requested shift transfer.

10. An article of manufacture as set forth in claim 8 wherein the criteria is whether any shifts of at least one of the owner and recipient overlap.